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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany **CONFIDENTIAL** 25X1

TOPIC Soviet Troops at the OHRDRUF Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION CE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CON 25X1

DATE OBTAIN DATE PREPARED 23 November 1949

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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27 September 1949

25X1 1. The following observations were made in the CRAWINKEL (M 51/J 14) area:

a. Restricted area west of CRAWINKEL:

Hospital unit with about 100 sick soldiers; 25X1

b. Restricted area to the west:

(1) AA gun emplacement, located about 500 feet north of where the CRAWINKEL - OHRDRUF (M 51/J 15) roads and the CRAWINKEL railroad station - WOELFIS (M 51/J 15) road cross. Three 76.2-mm AA guns were emplaced there, with the crew bunkers located beside the guns. A command bunker had been constructed on Hill 446, with telephone wires diverging in several directions.

(2) Fuel dump located in a depression south of the mentioned crossroads. About 30 tank trucks were seen there.

(3) Cantonment and motor vehicle park. Six cantonment buildings, one utilities building and about 20 trucks were seen there.

d. Tank parking lot at Hill 436:

Numerous canvas-covered tanks were observed. 25X1

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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e. Ammunition dump south of the highway running along the base of Hill 436:

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Ammunition from six sheds was observed to be loaded on 15 trucks

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f. Field practices:

Infantry and motorcycle troops held firing practices in the training area near CRAWINKEL. The practice, involving about 80 troops, was directed from three small armored vehicles (with rubber tires).

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g. Engineer equipment dumps about three miles south of CRAWINKEL. Several dumps with pontoons and engineer equipment were observed near a reservoir located in this area. A unit of about 50 troops was seen practicing at some pontoon-piers.

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h. Unloading of ammunition:

Ammunition boxes were unloaded from six boxcars at the CRAWINKEL railroad station on 22 September 1949 and shipped by truck to the mentioned ammunition dump (para d.).

Early October 1949

2. a. The troop camps in the OHKLRUE area were occupied to capacity by tank, artillery, infantry, motor transport and engineer units in early October 1949. Most of the observed troops were young. The maneuvers conducted here were allegedly scheduled to end in mid-October 1949.

b. from a distance some small infantry units practicing attack and penetration of enemy positions. The firing of heavy mortars rose above the noise of other weapons. Salvos of artillery pieces firing simultaneously were released upon the firing of ground signals. Forty to fifty T34 tanks were seen to leave for a field exercise.

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September 1949

3. It was learned in September 1949 that the farmers in the ARNSTADT (M 51/J 25) area had been ordered to have their crops harvested by 1 October 1949 because maneuvers would start then. No civilian was permitted to leave the house after 8 p.m.

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Comment:

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a. The report confirms previous observations

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b. The information that farmers were ordered to have their fields harvested by 1 October 1949 may be considered as vaguely corroborating a previous assumption that large-scale maneuvers extending beyond the troop training grounds boundaries were scheduled after that date.

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